

WE CLAIM AS OUR INVENTION:

1. A computerized method for selecting a patient for a medical procedure, comprising the steps of:

creating a decision tool using a plurality of sample data sets, and making said decision tool available to a computer;

in each of said sample data sets, including medical data describing a patient and a probability of success of a medical procedure and a duration of said medical procedure;

entering an input data set from a user into the computer, and including in said input data set medical data describing a candidate patient under consideration for said medical procedure; and

using said decision tool in said computer, determining an expected output data set corresponding with said input data set, including an expected probability of success of said medical procedure for said candidate patient and an expected duration of said medical procedure for said candidate patient, and making said expected output data set available to the user.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising using sample data sets for an HF ablation procedure, as said medical procedure for eliminating pathological excitation centers.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising using sample data sets for an HF ablation procedure, as said medical procedure, for elimination of stimulus conductor paths.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising using sample data sets for an HF ablation procedure, as said medical treatment, for pulmonary vein isolation.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising using a plurality of sample data sets numbering at least multiple hundreds.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising using a plurality of sample data sets numbering over a thousand.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising using a decision tool selected from the group consisting of expert systems, neural networks, and static estimates.

8. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising after creating said decision tool, verifying said decision tool in said computer using a plurality of test data sets.

9. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising making said sample data set available to said computer for a fee via a computer network accessible by said computer.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9 comprising making said sample data set available to said computer via the worldwide web.

11. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising the additional steps of:

buffering said input data set in said computer;

making an actual output data set available to said computer and including in

said actual output data set an actual probability of success of said

medical procedure for said candidate patient and an actual duration of

said medical procedure for said candidate patient; and

in said computer, revising said decision tool using said input data set and said

actual output data set.

12. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising allowing said computer to perform at least one of accepting said input data set and emitting said expected output data set only upon substantiation of payment of a fee.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12 comprising setting said fee dependent on a number of said input data sets entered by said user.

14. A method as claimed in claim 12 comprising the additional steps of:
buffering said input data set in said computer;
making an actual output data set available to said computer and including in said actual output data set an actual probability of success of said medical procedure for said candidate patient and an actual duration of said medical procedure for said candidate patient;
in said computer, revising said decision tool using said input data set and said actual output data set; and
reducing said fee upon said user making said actual output data set available to said computer.

15. A computer program product for selecting a patient for a medical procedure, loadable into a computer for programming said computer to:

create a decision tool using a plurality of sample data sets, and in each of said sample data sets, include medical data describing a patient and a probability of success of a medical procedure and a duration of said medical procedure;
receive an input data set from a user including medical data describing a candidate patient under consideration for said medical procedure; and
using said decision tool in, determine an expected output data set corresponding with said input data set, including an expected probability of success of said medical procedure for said candidate patient and an expected duration of said medical procedure for said

candidate patient, and make said expected output data set available to the user as an output.

16. A computer program product as claimed in claim 15 wherein said computer is further programmed by said computer program product to verify, after creating said decision tool, said decision tool in said computer using a plurality of test data sets.

17. A computer program product as claimed in claim 15 wherein said computer is further programmed by said computer program product to:

buffer said input data set in said computer;

receive an actual output data set including an actual probability of success of said medical procedure for said candidate patient and an actual duration of said medical procedure for said candidate patient; and

revise said decision tool using said input data set and said actual output data set.

18. A computer program product as claimed in claim 15 wherein said computer is further programmed by said computer program product to allow said computer to perform at least one of accepting said input data set and emitting said expected output data set upon substantiation of payment of a fee.

19. A computer program product as claimed in claim 18 wherein said computer is further programmed by said computer program product to set said fee dependent on a number of said input data sets entered by said user.

20. A computer program product as claimed in claim 18 wherein said computer is further programmed by said computer program product to:

buffer said input data set in said computer;

receive an actual output data set from a user including an actual probability of success of said medical procedure for said candidate patient and an actual duration of said medical procedure for said candidate patient;
revise said decision tool using said input data set and said actual output data set; and
reduce said fee upon said user making said actual output data set available to said computer.

21. A computer for selecting a patient for a medical procedure programmed to:

create a decision tool using a plurality of sample data sets including medical data describing a patient and a probability of success of a medical procedure and a duration of said medical procedure;
receive an input data set from a user including medical data describing a candidate patient under consideration for said medical procedure; and
using said decision tool, determine an expected output data set corresponding with said input data set, including an expected probability of success of said medical procedure for said candidate patient and an expected duration of said medical procedure for said candidate patient, and
make said expected output data set available to the user as an output.

22. A computer as claimed in claim 21 further programmed to verify, after creating said decision tool, said decision tool using a plurality of test data sets.

23. A computer as claimed in claim 21 further programmed to:
buffer said input data set in said computer;

receive an actual output data set including an actual probability of success of said medical procedure for said candidate patient and an actual duration of said medical procedure for said candidate patient; and revise said decision tool using said input data set and said actual output data set.

24. A computer as claimed in claim 21 further programmed to allow performance of at least one of accepting said input data set and emitting said expected output data set only upon substantiation of payment of a fee.

25. A computer as claimed in claim 24 further programmed to set said fee dependent on a number of said input data sets entered by said user.

26. A computer as claimed in claim 24 further programmed to:
buffer said input data set in said computer;
receive an actual output data set including an actual probability of success of said medical procedure for said candidate patient and an actual duration of said medical procedure for said candidate patient;
revise said decision tool using said input data set and said actual output data set; and
reduce said fee upon said user making said actual output data set available to said computer.